

an inner rotor positioned within said outer stator and consisting of permanent magnets of eight poles magnetized radially arranged at equal pitch so that N and S poles are alternately arranged circumferentially;

said stator windings being connected as groupings such that they can be driven by electric power of three phases, each of said groupings comprising three poles of said stator windings which are positioned as every other one of said stator windings for said three poles, said stator windings in each grouping being connected in series.

Please add claims 7 and 8 to read as follows:

7. (New) An electric power steering apparatus including an electric motor for applying a steering assist torque, corresponding to a steering torque, to a steering system, said electric motor comprising:

an annular outer stator having circumferentially arranged nine salient poles radially arranged at an equal pitch, each of said salient poles having a stator winding wound therearound; and

an inner rotor positioned within said outer stator and consisting of permanent magnets of eight poles magnetized radially arranged at equal pitch so that N and S poles are alternately arranged circumferentially;

said stator windings being connected as groupings such that they can be driven by electric power of three phases, each of said groupings comprising three poles of said stator windings which are positioned adjacent to each other, said stator windings in each grouping being connected in series.

8. (New) An electric power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said inner rotor has a motor shaft on which said permanent magnets of eight poles are circumferentially arranged, said motor shaft having a solid form.